

COUNTRY DATA: ISRAEL: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Following World War II, the British withdrew from their mandate of Palestine, and the UN partitioned the area into Arab and Jewish states, an arrangement rejected by the Arabs. Subsequently, the Israelis defeated the Arabs in a series of wars without ending the deep tensions between the two sides. The territories Israel occupied since the 1967 war are not included in the Israel country profile, unless otherwise noted. On 25 April 1982, Israel withdrew from the Sinai pursuant to the 1979 Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty. In keeping with the framework established at the Madrid Conference in October 1991, bilateral negotiations were conducted between Israel and Palestinian representatives and Syria to achieve a permanent settlement. Israel and Palestinian officials signed on 13 September 1993 a Declaration of Principles (also known as the "Oslo Accords") guiding an interim period of Palestinian self-rule. Outstanding territorial and other disputes with Jordan were resolved in the 26 October 1994 Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace. In addition, on 25 May 2000, Israel withdrew unilaterally from southern Lebanon, which it had occupied since 1982. In April 2003, US President BUSH, working in conjunction with the EU, UN, and Russia - the "Quartet" - took the lead in laying out a roadmap to a final settlement of the conflict by 2005, based on reciprocal steps by the two parties leading to two states, Israel and a democratic Palestine. However, progress toward a permanent status agreement was undermined by Israeli-Palestinian violence between September 2003 and February 2005. In the summer of 2005, Israel unilaterally disengaged from the Gaza Strip, evacuating settlers and its military while retaining control over most points of entry into the Gaza Strip. The election of HAMAS to head the Palestinian Legislative Council froze relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA). Ehud OLMERT became prime minister in March 2006 and presided over a 34-day conflict with Hizballah in Lebanon in June-August 2006 and a 23-day conflict with HAMAS in the Gaza Strip during December 2008 and January 2009. OLMERT, who in June 2007 resumed talks with PA President Mahmoud ABBAS, resigned in September 2008. Prime Minister Binyamin NETANYAHU formed a coalition in March 2009 following a February 2009 general election. Peace talks are currently stalled.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Lebanon
Area	22,072 sq km
Climate	temperate; hot and dry in southern and eastern desert areas
Natural Resources	timber, potash, copper ore, natural gas, phosphate rock, magnesium

	bromide, clays, sand
Total Renewable Water Resources	1.7 cu km (2001)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 2.05 cu km/yr (31%/7%/62%) per capita: 305 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	sandstorms may occur during spring and summer; droughts; periodic earthquakes
Environmental Issues	limited arable land and natural fresh water resources pose serious constraints; desertification; air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions; groundwater pollution from industrial and domestic waste, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides
PEOPLE	
Population	7,353,985
Ethnic Groups	Jewish 76.4% (of which Israel-born 67.1%, Europe/America-born 22.6%, Africa-born 5.9%, Asia-born 4.2%), non-Jewish 23.6% (mostly Arab) (2004)
Religions	Jewish 75.5%, Muslim 16.8%, Christian 2.1%, Druze 1.7%, other 3.9% (2008)
Languages	Hebrew (official), Arabic used officially for Arab minority, English most commonly used foreign language
Literacy Rate	97.1%
Major Infectious Diseases	HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 5,100 (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	parliamentary democracy
Independence	14 May 1948 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration)
Constitution	no formal constitution; some of the functions of a constitution are filled by the Declaration of Establishment (1948), the Basic Laws of the parliament (Knesset), and the Israeli citizenship law; note - since May 2003 the Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee of the Knesset has been working on a draft constitution
Legal System	mixture of English common law, British Mandate regulations, and in personal matters Jewish, Christian, and Muslim legal systems; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	

Agricultural Products	citrus, vegetables, cotton; beef, poultry, dairy products
Industries	high-technology products (including aviation, communications, computer-aided design and manufactures, medical electronics, fiber optics), wood and paper products, potash and phosphates, food, beverages, and tobacco, caustic soda, cement, construction, metals products, chemical products, plastics, diamond cutting, textiles, footwear
Import commodities	raw materials, military equipment, investment goods, rough diamonds, fuels, grain, consumer goods
Import Partners	US 12.35%, China 7.43%, Germany 7.1%, Switzerland 6.94%, Belgium 5.42%, Italy 4.49%, UK 4.03%, Netherlands 3.98% (2009)
Export Commodities	machinery and equipment, software, cut diamonds, agricultural products, chemicals, textiles and apparel
Export Partners	US 35.05%, Hong Kong 6.02%, Belgium 4.95% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$28,600 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	23.6%

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Israel

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	81.2 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	11.9 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$27,831
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	14.2%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	78.9%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	77.2%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	61.1%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	70.1%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	NA
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	NA
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	11%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	18%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	96%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	4%
Population without Access to Water (%)	0%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	0%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	<0%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	1,500
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5%
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	91.1%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	.1%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	<.1%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	.1%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	NA
Population without Electricity (%)	0%

Israel's Public Expenditure

